

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicants have newly added claims 30 to 33 in order to define the claimed subject matter more clearly, without adding new matter and in full compliance with the statutory requirements. Support for this amendment is found in the specification on page 13, lines 11-21; page 26, lines 1-4 and page 32, lines 24-31.

Further, claims 1 and 5 have been amended to make the claimed subject matter more clearly distinguishable over the cited references without adding new matter. In amendments of claims 1 and 5, the phrase of "said at least one additional member is welded to a portion of said at least one metal film, a bottom of the portion of said at least one metal film being in direct contact with the base" is added, but it is believed that the above-mentioned phrase does not introduce any new subject matter. In this regard it is to be noted that the specification discloses on page 8, lines 5-8, that the linear member is connected to at least one metal film/layer by welding the additional member to the metal film/layer. It is also disclosed on page 8, line 12, and at numerous other locations throughout the specification that the metal film/layer is formed on the base and it is clear from the disclosure and the figures that no other material is interposed between the metal film and the base, thereby supporting the claim limitation which requires that the metal film is in direct contact with the base.

The examiner has rejected claims 1-17 and 25-29 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wada in view of Zaphiropoulos in further view of Aono. Applicant has carefully considered this rejection, but it is most respectfully traversed for the reasons discussed below.

The present invention, as defined in the amended claims 1 and 5, requires a metal film formed on a base, a linear member and an additional member. The additional member is welded to a portion of the metal film and a bottom of the portion of the metal film is in direct contact with the base.

In contrast, Wada discloses a support member secured to a cathode attaching plate and a filament-shape cathode. The support member used by Wada consists of a base portion, a substantially L-shape connection portion and a securing portion. The L-shape connection portion stands erect from the base portion, and the securing portion is formed at a leading end of the connection portion. An end of the cathode is, by welding or the like, secured to the securing portion.

It appears that the Examiner considers that the base portion and the L-shape connection portion of Wada corresponds to a metal film of the present invention. Further, It is also believed that the securing portion of Wada corresponds to an additional member of the present invention.

However, Wada's leading end of the connection portion is not in direct contact with the cathode attaching plate since the L-shape connection portion stands erect from the base portion; that is, a bottom of the leading end of the connection portion is apart from the cathode attaching plate.

Accordingly, Wada has problems identical to those of the prior art of the present invention as disclosed on page 5, lines 10-20. That is, Wada's display device certainly has shortcomings in that the support member such as the base portion and the L-shape connection portion is of a complicated shape due to the three-dimensional shapes, is costly to manufacture and makes a mounting process of the filament difficult. Additionally, such support members should have a predetermined strength, setting a limit on the miniaturization of the device. In other words, it is difficult to make the display device thin. Further, since the area for mounting such support member is large, the space excepting for the display area, so-called dead space, is enlarged.

In view of the above, it is evident that the present invention is completely different from Wada, Zaphiropoulos and/or Aono structurally and functionally.

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Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 5 define a patentable invention over Wada, Zaphiropoulos and Aono and is, therefore, allowable.

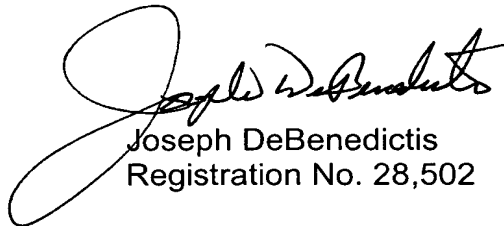
Further, claims 2-4, 6-17 and 25-33 depend indirectly and directly on claims 1 and 5 and are allowable for the same reasons indicated with respect to claims 1 and 5 and further because of the additional features recited therein which, when taken alone and/or in combination with the features recited in the amend claims 1 and 5, remove the invention defined therein further from the disclosures made in the cited reference.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that this is a full and complete response to the Office Action. For the reasons discussed above, applicant now respectfully submits that all of the pending claims are in complete condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner's rejections be withdrawn; and that claims 1-17 and 25-33 be allowed in their present form. If the Examiner feels that any issues that remain require discussions, he is kindly invited to contact applicant's undersigned attorney to resolve the issues.

Respectfully submitted,
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